

the horse is that he lasts all day—good on the last quarter! exclaims his eulogist. If he gives out at noon he would amount to but half a horse. Endurance is one of the attributes of a sovereign will. It measures distance as strength measures weight. The more power that can be crowded upon one horse, the less in number will be required to do the same business. The saving power of machinery diminishes the cost of production. The saving of labor by horse-power increases the means of production.

The formidable labors imposed upon the horse require supernatural exertions. He is tasked to perform incredible labors. Loaded down with oppressive weights, he cowers at no distance. In the midst of battle he bounds in fearless majesty over the cannon that threatens his destruction, and defies the bayonet or leaded messengers of the rifle. He is harnessed to the booming cannon to destroy life, and to the ambulance to gather up the wounded soldier to restore life. In the charge at the head of the column he greets the enemy with the prestige of the conquering general, whose sword has been drawn to save liberty, or to perish a martyr in her defence. When war has done its work, he returns to the plough, where he becomes as docile in the furrow as he has been furious in battle. The mower and reaper has not lost its servant, nor the thresher its great motive power.

Peace is the mission of the horse. He increases with the advance of civilization, and becomes of practical importance with the diffusion of the arts and the progress of enlightened economy. As the joint tenant of land and labor, he fosters the national production. Land is the source of production, labor is the material of wealth.—*Cor. Wilkes' Spirit,*

ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF THE PERCHERON NORMAN HORSE.

A Pure Race—Characteristics and Points—Importation into this Country.

WE have had occasion to speak of the Percheron Norman horse, which has been in former days introduced into this country; believing that the knowledge of this race, and still more of its existence in the United States is confined to a small number of persons, and for the most part a to single locality, we have thought it would be not uninteresting to our agricultural readers to give a brief account of the animal, its deriva-

tion, its importation into this country, and of the benefits which are, we fully believe, to be derived from its employment.

In the first place, then, Le Perche is a district of that portion of France which was formerly known as Normandy, in which the breed of the Norman horses has been most highly cultivated, and exists in its most perfect form and improved condition. Indeed, by some means somewhat anomalous, and at variance with the general experience and principles of breeding, this breed, which must in its origin have been a cross, has, in the process of many ages, become a family perfect in itself, capable of transmitting its qualities and reproducing itself, like to like, without any loss of energies or characteristics by breeding mares and stallions of the same race together.

The remarkable purity of the race is attested by the certainty with which the stallions transmit to their progeny, begotten on mares of a different race, their own characteristics, and the high degree in which the offspring of the mares, bred to horses of superior class, retain the better qualities of their dams. For it appears to be a certain, rule in breeding, that the purer the blood, and the higher the vital energy and vigor of either parent, in the greater degree does that parent transmit its properties to the young—although, as before insisted upon the certain transmissions of the larger portion of those energies is always on the stallion's side, and it is only in the longer retention of an inferior proportion of her qualities by the progeny that the better blood of the dam can be traced when bred to an inferior sire. When bred to a purer blooded stallion than herself, the more pure blood the mare herself has the more strongly will her own marks descend to her progeny, and the less will they be altered or modified by those of the sire.

The Percheron Normans are clearly a pure race
per se.

We do not mean by the words, a thoroughbred race, but a race capable of producing and reproducing themselves *ad infinitum*, unaltered, and without deterioration of qualities, by breeding like sires to like dams, without infusion of any other blood, just as is done by Durham, Ayrshire, or Alderney cattle, by setters, pointers, greyhounds, and, in a word, by any and all animals of distinct and perfect varieties of the same species. The only remarkable thing in this case is, that such should be the facts, under the circumstances, of the Percheron